

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's efforts to respond to the undersigned concerning the Applicants' question about the rejections made in the final Office Action. However, the questions as to the basis of the rejections remain unresolved at this point and present appealable issues.

In view of the arguments presented herein, it is respectfully submitted that the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office should withdraw the current rejections. However, in the event the current rejections are not withdrawn, it is hoped that the next letter will more clearly identify the basis for the rejections.

Claims 15 and 16 are amended herein to address the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments are enterable after the final Office Action, because the amended claims do not raise new issues that would require a new search or further consideration. Support for the amendments is provided, *inter alia*, at paragraph [0083].

In the final Office Action, all claims were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,345,256 to Milsted et al. ("*Milsted*") or as obvious over *Milsted* in view of other references. For the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the presently pending claims.

The final Office Action cites one passage of *Milsted* at col. 25, lines 45-52 as teaching all of the elements of claims 1, 32, 34, 35 and 37. Claim 1 recites a network system which includes a first information processing apparatus that is loadable with a recording medium and a second information processing apparatus that is connectable to the first information processing apparatus via a network.

Unique information relating to the recording medium is receivable by the second information processing apparatus from the first information processing apparatus over a network. The second information processing apparatus is operable to use the received unique information, along with other received unique information and third information to verify the recording medium. Claim 1 refers to the unique information relating to the recording medium as "second unique information". The other unique information received from the first information processing apparatus is the "first unique information" which relates to the first information processing apparatus.

Milsted fails to teach the invention as recited in claim 1. The required one-to-one correspondence between the teachings of *Milsted* and the elements of claim 1 is missing.

The cited passage of *Milsted* at col. 25, lns. 45-52 merely refers to the assignment of a "unique application ID to [a] downloaded Player Application". *Milsted* neither teaches nor suggests a network system in which unique information relating to a recording medium loadable in a first information processing apparatus is receivable by a second information processing apparatus from the first information processing apparatus. Nor does *Milsted* teach a second information processing apparatus which is able to verify the recording medium by making reference to first unique information and the second unique information which are both received from the first information processing apparatus, the information processing apparatus into which the recording medium is loadable.

The other independent claims contain similar recitations and are believed to be fully distinguished from *Milsted* for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

Claim 16, which depends from claim 1, recites a more specific form of the invention in which the second information processing apparatus receives information relating to first and

second recording media from first and third information processing apparatuses. The second information processing apparatus is operable to disable the third information processing apparatus from reading a program stored in a second recording medium when the received information relating to both the first and second recording media are the same. This too, is not taught by the combination of *Milsted* and other cited references.

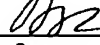
All other claims are distinguished from the references at least by virtue of their dependency from one or more of the above-discussed claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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